

just the \$225 a month in hazardous duty pay, the payroll tax exemption and the flights home to see their families. We will all pay for this with the loss of morale.

Kosovo suffers from ethnic unrest. The country has unexploded ordnance and American soldiers work to defuse these daily. Mr. Speaker, Kosovo is still a dangerous place. It's revealing that the State Department's assessment is different than the Department of Defense. Foreign service officers receive hazardous duty pay.

Ensuring that this mission remains classified as a combat mission is more than about \$225 a month to soldiers. It's about doing right for those who risk their lives in defense of this Nation.

#### “WHO GETS THE WORKER?”

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, while the flow of illegals continues to storm across our southern border, much to the joy of those who want cheap plantation labor, Mexico now wants to keep some of its workers home. President Calderon wants the United States to invest in Mexico and use Mexican workers.

Well, what does that really mean? Does that mean more U.S. foreign aid? Or have U.S. companies expand to Mexico and use those Mexican workers? Either way, Calderon expects the United States to solve his problem. Mexico alone cannot or will not take care of its economic problems, thus making their problem our problem.

Currently, Mexico exports its people to the United States to work and then have them send money back to Mexico. Mr. Speaker, if the United States invests in Mexico and more Mexican workers stay home, is there going to be a cross-border conflict over who gets the worker?

It would be ironic indeed to see the pro-amnesty cheap labor crowd in the United States encouraging illegal entry while the Mexican Government tells workers to stay home and take new jobs provided by U.S. investment.

And that's just the way it is.

#### BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS PLAYING POLITICS WITH U.S. ATTORNEYS OFFICE

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, every day the Bush White House is losing more credibility with the American people and with the Congress. Late last year the Justice Department fired eight U.S. Attorneys for purely political reasons. Last week, Attorney General Gonzales came to Capitol Hill and swore that the terminations had nothing to do with politics. But then 2 days ago we learned that these decisions were not made exclusively by the Jus-

tice Department. The political purge reached the highest levels at the White House and was actually prompted by President Bush. So much for no political involvement from the White House.

Mr. Speaker, this information would have never come out if the new Democratic Congress did not take its oversight responsibility seriously. U.S. Attorneys should be free of political pressure and that is simply not the case with the Bush White House.

We will continue to demand answers from an administration that is not too interested in working with Congress. It would be nice if they would finally learn their lesson and realize that it is time to level with both the Congress and the American people.

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#### GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION TO AMERICA'S HEROES

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address Walter Reed and this government's obligation to America's heroes.

On Monday, I toured Walter Reed. My first impression is that one visit is not enough. I will make several more trips to the facility to speak with patients and staff about what they need and how we can best address this unacceptable situation.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's finest deserve the finest medical care, plain and simple. This Friday, I will continue my tour of local VA facilities when I visit the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa. This is one of the largest VA facilities in the country, and serves many veterans in my district.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Democrat or Republican problem, this is America's problem and it requires a bipartisan solution. I urge my colleagues to work together to quickly address and resolve this situation.

God bless our troops and veterans. They truly are America's heroes.

#### WHITE HOUSE PLAYING POLITICS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, after weeks of denial from both the White House and the Department of Justice that politics played no part in the firing of eight U.S. Attorneys, the Attorney General finally admitted yesterday that there is more to the story.

It was an embarrassing and disturbing set of e-mails between the White House's political operatives and Gonzales's chief of staff that clearly revealed that there were political concerns involved in the political purge, or firing. The chief of staff resigned after

e-mails were released to the New York Times and the Washington Post, but questions still remain unanswered.

What about those at the top? Is it plausible that the Attorney General was unaware of the actions of his own chief of staff? When is the President going to hold members of his Cabinet accountable for misdeeds and mistakes?

The Attorney General's office is supposed to be above politics. An independent judiciary is one of the hallmarks of this great democracy which we, as Americans, promote around the world. There is simply no place for politics at the Justice Department. But sadly, it appears that the Justice Department has become a pawn of the Republican Party.

#### CONGRATULATING CHANDLER AND HIGHLAND CHOIRS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two outstanding high school choirs from my district, the Chandler High School Chorale and the Highland High School Concert Choir. These groups were selected by competitive audition out of dozens of high schools across the country to perform on March 19, 2007, at New York's famed Carnegie Hall.

The Chandler High School Chorale from Chandler, Arizona, has already distinguished itself as one of the top high school choirs in the Nation. Led by Dean Anderson, the chorale has performed across the country and around the world over the past two decades. This is the choir's second performance in the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival, a singular achievement in the festival's history.

The Highland High School Concert Choir of Gilbert, Arizona, has also secured a spot in the festival. Led by Rita Scholz, the concert choir has performed in the Arizona ACDA conference, the Arizona Music Educators Association Conference, and the 1998 MENC National Convention. The Highland High School choral music program consists of 170 students in five performing ensembles, presenting four concerts on campus per year, as well as other performances around the country.

I am honored to have two of the four schools in the Nation chosen from my district.

#### HALLIBURTON SLAPS TAXPAYERS IN FACE

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Halliburton has decided to move its headquarters to Dubai. This is a company that has received over \$25 billion worth